Issue No. 54

## In The News

Mount Douglas Secondary Completes $9.5-Million Upgrade

BC Students to Connect with Countries around the World

New, Greener Dr. Knox Middle School Officially Opens

Students Sing to Celebrate Vancouver 2010 Countdown

## Contact Information

**Mailing Address:**
PO Box 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9E2

**Telephone:**
250-387-1977

**Fax:**
250-387-3200

**E-mail:**
minister.educ@gov.bc.ca

## Links

- Media Room
- StrongStart BC
- LearnNow BC
- School Choices
- Healthy Schools
- ReadNow BC
- School District Visits

## Message from Minister Shirley Bond

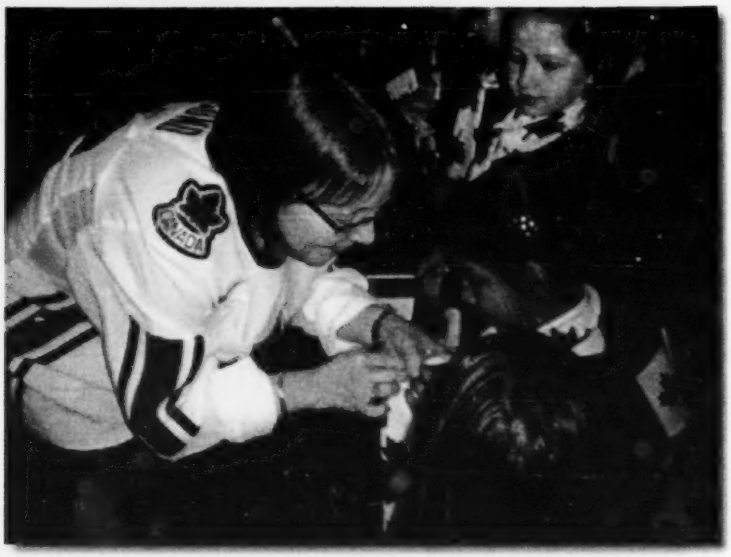
Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

Earlier today, the second "Sharing the Dream" webcast was held at Heritage Woods Secondary school in Port Moody. Students in B.C., Canada and abroad had the opportunity to interview the co-creator of TakingITGlobal, Michael Furdyk. TakingITGlobal.org is a global online community for young people, engaging hundreds of thousands of youth in over 200 countries and territories on global citizenship. Furdyk has spoken to over 50,000 educators about the importance of engaging students and integrating technology and global perspectives into the classroom.

The "Sharing the Dream" webcasts are a wonderful example of how to turn the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games into teachable moments. The Games are an international event, and they are bringing a wide range of countries and cultures to our province. Students will learn first-hand about the diverse cultures, countries and citizens of the world. As we welcome the world to B.C. next February, students should consider their role as global citizens; fostering a global perspective and learning how to look at the world with empathy, an open mind and a critical eye.

My thanks to the Education Leadership Council, VANOC and TakingITGlobal, for helping us create this educational opportunity for our students and students around the world. For more information about Olympic related educational opportunities, I encourage you to visit www.vancouver2010.com/edu.

## Countdown to the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games



Minister Bond presents pins to children from St. Patrick's and Tillicum schools on Thursday, February 12, at the celebration of the one-year countdown to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Celebrations included singing of "O Canada" at the Legislature and the launch of the "Adopt a Country" program where schools in B.C. are connected with schools in other countries.
More information. News Release.

---

## HOT TOPIC

Our province is being directly impacted by economic events beyond our control, as outlined in Budget 2009. A significant shift in the global economy has had a dramatic impact on B.C., resulting in a sharp decline in revenues necessary to fund government programs and services. Rather than increase tax or dramatically reduce spending on priority programs, the B.C. government will run its first deficit in five years. This deficit is a temporary measure to ensure critical services such as education and health care are protected.

Government's priority is clear – Budget 2009 protects education funding, bringing it to a record high of $5.178 billion. This is an increase of $62 million over last year. As a result per pupil funding will go up by $124 per student to $8,242. Overall, education funding has increased by 27% since 2001. It's important to note that these increases come at a time when enrolment continues to decline. Next year, enrolment is expected to drop by another 6,000 students, and has dropped more than 50,000 since 2001.

In this unprecedented economic situation we are protecting public services in the short term so we are stronger in the long term. This government still believes strongly in balanced budgets. In Budget 2009, the Province has laid out a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2011-12. Now more than ever we must dedicate ourselves to the good of our children and to all the future holds for them as British Columbians.

---

## Book Corner

"Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman" is the inspiring and true story of runner Wilma Rudolph, who overcame

childhood polio and went on to win three gold medals in a single Olympics. Rudolph contracted polio just before her fifth birthday, but she persevered with her leg exercises and by age 12 she no longer needed her leg braces. At age 20, she represented the U.S. in the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. Even though she had a twisted ankle, Rudolph won three gold medals, becoming the first American woman to win that many medals in the Olympics.